Government have promptly sanctioned advances to the District Boards whenever it was brought to their notice that salaries could not be paid for want of funds."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Are the Government aware that this is not an exception, but a general rule? Since the Government have taken the responsibility of seeing that aided school teachers are paid salaries, is there not an extra responsibility on the part of the Government to see that the District Board teachers also are paid? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The question is with reference to the District Board elementary schools. I have already said that whenever the District Boards applied for funds if they were short of funds for the purpose of paying salaries to their teachers, we were sanctioning funds."

Cases of smuggling of foodgrains in South Arcot.

* 966 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of cases of smuggling of foodgrains that were detected during 1952–53 in South Arcot district;

(*b*) the amount of fines realised in these cases; and

(*c*) how many cases ended in acquittal?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the statement[a] laid on the table of the House."

Inclusion of Mathavakurichi firka, Tirunelveli, in the Firka Development Scheme.

* 967 *Q.*—SRI R. S. ARUMUGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to include the Mathavakurichi firka, Tirunelveli taluk, in the Firka Development Scheme?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The selection of additional areas for introducing the National Extension Service has not yet been taken up."

[Starred questions Nos. 968—973 answered on 17th May 1954.]

MR. SPEAKER :—" There are short notice questions. We shall take them up afterwards."

Issue of licences for guns.

* 974 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the conditions governing the issue of licences for guns and the procedure followed before licences are issued; and

[a] Printed as Appendix III on page 463 infra.

[19th May 1954

(b) how many applications for gun licences were received from Malabar in 1952-53 and how many were granted?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) Each application for a licence for a gun is considered on its merits with particular reference to—

(i) the applicant's reliability and his ability to keep the weapon safe from theft or misuse; and

(ii) public security.

The procedure followed is that applications for the grant of arms licence are sent through the Deputy Tahsildar or Tahsildar concerned, who after making the necessary enquiry sends a report for the orders of the Collector.

" (b) The number of applications for gun licences received in Malabar district was as follows :—

1952—879.

1953—1,111

294 licences were granted in 1952 and 383 licences in 1953."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, are the Government aware of the fact that in most cases the licensees of guns in mofassal places should serve as police touts and false witnesses in police cases and if they do not serve police purposes, their licences are cancelled on some pretext or other and thus they are made to suffer? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" If specific instances are brought to the notice of the Government, we will take action."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, is it not a fact that the Revenue Inspector, the Tahsildar, and even the Revenue Divisional Officer make recommendations, but still the permission is refused because some police constable reports something against the licensee? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It is not on the report of the police constable that licences are refused. If there are special reasons within the knowledge of the Collector, he refuses the licence."

National Extension Service areas in South Arcot.

* 975 Q.—SRI M. JAGANNATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the area selected for development under the National Extension Service in the South Arcot district; and

(b) the total amount allotted for the district under the scheme for the year 1953-54?